



Faith, Family and Fascination

Collective Worship Policy

Boutcher C.E. Primary School

Reviewed by: Megan Whitton

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Next review due by: Autumn 2024

*“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:34*

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Connection to the Mission Statement

The Collective Worship Policy will support the delivery of our Mission Statement:

“The aims and practice of Boutcher School seek to reflect the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as told in the Gospels. Jesus taught us, through His example of unconditional love and compassion, that we are all of equal value to God. Everyone is entitled to be regarded with dignity, fairness and respect. We strive to ensure that our school enshrines the values which Jesus taught us.”

The children's mission statement:

“In our school everyone has the right to learn, the right to feel safe and the right to respect. They have the right to learn the good news of the Gospels and to know that God loves us all equally (whether we are rich or poor, young or old.)

We strive to live in the way that Jesus would want us to. We tell others Jesus's stories so that they can learn from them too and we try to set an example for other people in the way that we act. In all that we do we help each other and love others as Jesus would want us to.

Boutcher CE Primary School tries its best to remember that Jesus loves us, even when we make mistakes.”

Aims of the policy

Collective Worship should:

- be concerned with the worship of God
- provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their spiritual life
- promote Christian moral values
- promote the moral codes of the school and explore the rationale for them
- enable children to develop an understanding of the Christian Faith
- teach about the customs and practices of the Church of England
- allow children to experience and explore the meanings of the liturgy and rituals of worship within Anglican tradition
- celebrate beliefs, values and ideals and pupils' talents
- respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God
- have a sense of occasion
- invite participation
- provide opportunities for individuals and the community to share what is of importance to them
- promote personal qualities such as thoughtfulness, respect and honesty
- reflect on models of moral virtue in literature and the lives of contemporary people and those of the past
- foster a sense of community and belonging
- be varied in style and include different forms of expression (art, music, story and dance)

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- make use of symbols and imagery
- encourage and support all members of our school community to live our lives in accordance with the values of the Fruits of the Spirit

The Place of Collective Worship in the life of the school

Christian worship is central to the experience of being a member of Boutcher School. Time set aside for acts of worship are very special parts of the week and they are surrounded by a sense of joy and reverence.

Children participate in a daily act of worship. In this time, they develop their knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and the Bible. They have the opportunity to reflect on their own ideas and experiences, wider moral issues and the ideas expressed in literature.

During acts of worship the children experience the liturgy, ritual and symbolism of the Anglican Tradition.

Collective worship is at the heart of all we do at Boutcher School and we try to ensure that all children can attend worship without compromising their own religious beliefs. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from collective worship, they should arrange a meeting with the collective worship coordinator to discuss their concerns. If a resolution cannot be achieved, withdrawal may be granted from services for a period of one year. After this time, parents should reapply.

The Content of Acts of Collective Worship

Each Act of Collective Worship involves:

- A greeting at the beginning
- A time for quiet reflection
- A prayer or a space for prayers
- Music to provide time for thought or celebration

At each Act of Collective Worship the altar is set with an alter cloth representing the season of the Anglican Church Calendar, candles and a cross.

The format and Pattern of Worship

Acts of Collective Worship take place in the school hall.

Monday	Whole School worship led by the Head Teacher or a senior member of staff
Tuesday	Key stage 1 Service Key stage 2 Hymn singing
Wednesday	Key Stage 1 Classroom worship Key Stage 2 Classroom worship
Thursday	Whole school class assembly/praise assembly
Friday	Key stage 1 Hymn singing Key stage 2 Eucharist

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The focus of the services for each term are discussed and set each year. The theme will change and include a variety of Old Testament, New Testament, themes of Jesus' life, Christian traditions and practices as well as prayers.

The services are presented by a different class each week. The class represent the Bible story for the day through drama and music. Each child in the class has a part in the drama. This class also leads the prayers of petition.

The KS2 service is a Eucharist, taken by the Priest of St. Mary's Bermondsey, The Reverend Charlie Moore. Sometimes visiting priests or priests from local churches take the service.

Parents are invited to attend the services as are friends of the school and known members of the community.

Special services

A special service is held for the Admission of Year 5 children to Holy Communion. This is usually led by the Bishop of Southwark or the Bishop of Woolwich.

Each year, an annual whole school Eucharist is held and provides a chance for everyone to worship together.

The whole school worship together at St Mary Magdalene Church to mark the following festivals and times:

- Harvest festival
- Christmas Service
- Easter service
- End of year service

Classroom Worship

As identified on the previous page, each class partakes in a session of Classroom worship each week. This provides time for reflection and allows children to express their ideas.

This is an important time for developing children's spirituality. It is a special time and is set apart from other times in the classroom. It is a calm and quiet time. Sometimes a candle may be lit, music played or the children will have an image or object to consider.

Children are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions and to value the opinions of those around them. Sometimes the time is used to reflect on fundamental questions or a topical issue that children may need some guidance in dealing with.

At each classroom worship session there is time for prayer. In Key Stage 1 children will come up with prayers and often are supported by the adults in the class. They may sing songs with actions.

In Key Stage 2, classroom worship provides children with the opportunity to reflect, pray and worship God. This may be through writing prayers and placing them on the prayer cycle, listening to music and reflecting on the words of the song or through considering and reflecting on themes suggested by the teacher or children. Teachers are encouraged to use a range of worship styles and to make links with themes and events that are current and relevant. This will often link to the whole school theme also being followed in collective worship and services. Children will have a book to record

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prayers, reflections and questions. A whole class book will also be collated and displayed in the worship area. Children will choose whether their work can be included in the communal book.

Each classroom has a worship area where children can visit freely to reflect, pray and worship God.



The Eucharist and Admission to Communion

At Key Stage 2 Eucharist Service, children in Years 5 and 6 who have been admitted by the Bishop are invited to receive Holy Communion. Children who have been baptized and admitted outside of our school can also be included, providing their parents give permission to the Headteacher or Collective Worship Coordinator.

When children are in Year 5 they have the opportunity to attend Admission to Communion Classes. These are held in school one afternoon a week, from 3.30pm- 4.30pm for approximately 8 weeks. The classes are run by the Reverend Charlie Moore of St. Mary's and are accompanied by a staff member.

In the classes the children have time to learn more about the traditions and beliefs of the Christian faith and reflect on their own ideas. When all the classes have finished, The Reverend Charlie Moore meets with each child that has attended to see that they are ready for Admission to Communion and ensure that it is their wish to do so. A special service is then held, where the Bishop of Southwark or the Bishop of Woolwich admits the children to Communion. Parents, Godparents and other members of the school and community are invited to attend the service.

It is a special and important time. All children in Year 5 participate in the drama in the service so that children from all backgrounds are included.

Organisation and Planning Responsibilities

We have close links with local churches, particularly St Mary's, Bermondsey and the incumbent is directly involved with the planning and delivery of Acts of Worship.

Whole school assemblies are usually planned and delivered by the Head Teacher and members of SLT and follow the theme for the term (such as numbers and places).

The Tuesday KS1 service and Friday Eucharist themes are planned in Key Stage meetings with the Collective Worship Coordinator using guidance from the Priest of St. Mary's, Bermondsey. Each class teacher then uses this information with their class to write a script for a drama. The class presents this drama in the service.

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Each class takes a turn to present a drama for the day and lead the Key Stage in prayer. Year 6 have special responsibilities in services such as preparing the altar and taking the offertory.

Planning for special services such as Admission to Holy Communion is completed by the class teacher concerned and supported by the Collective Worship Coordinator.

Children prepare for the services in their classroom with discussion and questioning led by the class teacher. This happens directly before they go to the hall for the service so that the children are ready and prepared with some understanding of what is to follow.

Following KS1 and KS2 services, children complete reflection activities in response to the theme of the service and also during Christmas and Lent. Children in Reception will reflect on services but are not be required to complete a written outcome. This offers children another opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt from the service and to ask questions.

Evaluation

The theme for each term is reported to the Governors at the beginning of the term.

An annual report is given to the Governing Body.

This policy is discussed annually with the vision and values committee any amendments ratified by the full governing body.

Budget

A budget for resources is allocated each year. This is set according to identified areas of development.

Future Plan for School Closure

During previous school closures, online collective worship through Google Classroom provided our school community with a place to connect, communicate and encourage each other. Should another school closure occur, we will provide the same opportunities for worship in terms of opportunities to engage with worship independently as well as opportunities for communal prayer and virtual meets through Google Classroom led by the headteacher and Reverend Charlie Moore.

In addition to our previous provision, we would also provide opportunities for children to watch videos of teachers leading worship and we have collected a bank of singing and bible readings that may also be used to help the children feel more connected to each other and the school during worship.

Where Admission to Holy Communion is affected, this will be rescheduled at the earliest possible time, where the necessary safety precautions of children and their families can be met.

Promoting Diversity and Equality in Collective Worship

During Collective Worship, we seek to ensure that all children are represented and celebrated. We ensure that we learn and reflect on festivals, celebrations and individuals that represent the diversity within our school. We promote equality for all through our collective worship.

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If children raise concerns during collective worship (either whole school or in classroom worship), the teacher leading the time of worship will respond appropriately and facilitate discussions, thoughts and feelings sensitively and openly. If discussions are held, teachers should inform the collective worship coordinator or the headteacher of the nature of the discussions. If children share views that cause concern, these should be written on the appropriate forms and handed to the Headteacher. Teachers should be cautious in these discussions and seek support from the SLT.